



# WENDOVER ARM NEWS

*Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust*



*Issue 2016/4  
Winter 2016*

*Price £1 where sold  
Free to members*





# A Pictorial Record of the Visit of the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire to the Wendover Arm On 6 September



Above: Ready for the 'off'  
From the left: James Clifton  
(CRT), Charles Baker (CRT), Mr  
Derek Townsend DLL,  
Lady Verulam the Lord Lieutenant  
and Marion Birch

More pictures on p16

Photos: Editor



Above: Entering the Arm at Bulbourne

Left: Enjoying a cup of tea at New Mill

Below left: Lady Verulam prepares to  
unveil a commemorative plaque  
(with a little help from James Clifton's  
spotted handkerchief and Deputy  
Lieutenant Mr Derek Townsend!)  
watched by Chris Sargeant  
Below right: Plaque unveiled and,  
inset, the plaque



Lady Verulam looks on as the restoration team lay the next 2m³ of concrete pipe-capping.  
They acknowledge her with a hearty waves and cheers

Photos: Eric Rose



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**Cover picture:** Autumn Mist at Little Tring  
by Chris Sargeant

**Copy deadline for the spring edition:**  
**22 February 2017**

## Chairman's column

September was a busy month for the Trust with five events in eight days! Firstly on 4 September our Restoration Open Day attracted possibly the biggest attendance yet, at least judging by the number of cars parked. There was lots of interest in our site tours with both lining and pipe capping to be seen. My thanks to all who volunteered on the day and to the Mayor of Tring for coming to pick the winners in the Grand Draw.

The following Tuesday Lady Verulam, Lord Lieutenant of Herts with Deputy LL Derek Townsend visited the Trust. We took them on the Birchs' boat, Muttley, from Bulbourne to Little Tring and then walked along to Bridge 4a showing her the work site. She was very impressed with the work of our volunteers, the magnitude of the task and what has been achieved, impressed enough to send us a sizeable donation to our funds

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Paul from Kernal Cruisers and his day boat Albert took some of our events volunteers from Cowroast Marina to Little Tring and then to the work site and back again after lunch on-board. This was firstly as a thank you to our volunteers and also to build a relationship with Paul for future trips; a very successful day out.

Finally (phew!) on 11 September in the morning we manned two of the water stations for CRT's '2 arms on 2 legs' run from Aylesbury *via* Marsworth to Wendover and then had our stand at Halton Fair in the afternoon.



October is our AGM month and I would like to thank everyone who helped organize and run it. Perhaps in 2017 we need to consider whether to move away from Green Park to elsewhere with similar capacity, better access and car parking plus a licensed bar in the function room. The Café in the Park would be a possible option; the Trust has used this venue in the past for its AGM and we had the volunteers' lunch there early in the year.

As you will see from the Restoration News pages, Morgans Plant Hire has been sold and closed which has left us with a problem of hire of heavy plant for the restoration work. Thanks are due to Ray Orth and Roger Leishman for negotiating a smooth transfer of our hire needs following the closure of Morgans.

The stage 2 lottery bid preparation is continuing by CRT – the current priority for the Trust is to contribute towards the community engagement activity plan for which Jenny Brice is liaising with CRT's Sarah Brown. Sarah is drawing up a

draft specification, based on which consultants will be invited to submit tenders to complete the plan – basically to visit schools to encourage and educate about the canals and our project and involve the wider community.

Interest in Whitehouses history has gone up and Bucks Archeological Society will be visiting to survey the site in December even though comprehensive investigations have been carried out and

well documented by Professor Peters and, please, I know Whitehouses in Hertfordshire so don't write in to tell me!

Ray Orth and I were interviewed by BBC 3-Counties Radio on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> in connection with their Canoe challenge for Children in Need – see our website for a link to our live broadcast and video clips.

*Chris Sargeant*

## A Grand Day Out . . .

### BOAT TRIPS

The Trust is making arrangements with Paul Kerr of Kernal Cruisers at Cow Roast to hire one of his day-boats on one or more occasions to take members on a cruise from Cow Roast, through Tring Cutting and along the Arm to its current terminus at Little Tring.

We had a trial run on 9 September that proved very successful as you can see from the pictures on p16.

We've made a provisional booking for the first trip on 24 May 2017 and would welcome expressions of interest. The expected cost for the day (and it's a full day) is around £30 per person including a buffet lunch on board. There will be plenty of time for participants to go on a guided walk along the towpath from Little Tring to the restoration works and we are asking CRT whether the Pumping Station could be open for tours too. There will be plenty of opportunity for those who go on the trip(s) to 'have a go' at driving the boat, under instruction of course if you are a novice.

### TRINGFORD PUMPING STATION TOURS

The Trust is trying to arrange with CRT for tours of the pumping station (separately from the boat trips). The first of these may be on 22 April and we are seeking expressions of interest.

If you know the current pumping station, either through local knowledge or from pictures, you might be led to think it's insignificant; go inside, it's like a TARDIS!

#### INTERESTED?

Then contact Membership secretary, Katherine by email (see p3 for address) or telephone the Trust's general number 07547 181857 stating which one interests you and how many places you'd like to take.

Please let us know by the end of March



# Membership Update

## New Members

The Trust extends a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the autumn Newsletter:

**Paul Clark**

from Hemel Hempstead

**Mikk Bradley**

from Chesham

**David Hunt**

from Leighton Buzzard

**Peter Cox**

from Tring

**Chris Saxton**

from Lacey Green

**David & Wendy Hilling**

from Berkhamsted

**Nigel Lewis**

from Tring

**John Latchford**

from Great Missenden –  
joined online

**Richard Maw and family**

from Chesham

**David Jarvis**

from Maidenhead

**Steve Griffiths & family**

from Weston Turville –  
joined on-line as life  
members.

We welcome them all and wish them many happy years of membership of the Trust.

## New Honorary Members

Waterways Recovery Group Boat Club  
have joined as Honorary Corporate

Members and have donated £200 to  
Restoration Funds

## Farewells

**Peter Bowers**

from Harwich, a stalwart for many years of the restoration working parties, and one of the first to sign up to the Trust in 1989, has resigned. Peter appears to love getting intimate with muck as he is also one of the restoration volunteers on the River Stour Trust.

Although he has resigned his membership you can't keep a good man away and you may see him at John Reynolds' 'Tidy Friday' work group. For those of you who don't know him, Peter is the chap on the left in the Tidy Friday picture on p15 – the one who looks a bit like Father Christmas without the red robe!

**Graham and Meryl Nichols**

from St Albans, two other 1989-joiners have resigned their membership

**Richard Cousins**

member since 2009 from Hyde Heath has also resigned.

We are sad to see them all go.

## Obituaries

Sadly we have to report the passing of a number of long-standing members:

**Tim Mattherson**

from Buckland Wharf

**Philip Wareham**

from Milton Keynes. Phil was a larger-

than-life character who sadly in his later days contracted MS. He had been a member since 1989. The collection at his funeral in aid of the Trust raised over £50.

### **Reg Naulls**

from St Albans, member since 1989

### **Eileen Cavanagh**

from Tring. We understand that Eileen has left a bequest to the Trust but at the time of writing do not know for how much.

So, what's the profile of our membership now? Within a year of the formation of the Trust we had over 300 members according to the then Membership Secretary Barry Martin and it's interesting to note that even that long ago his problems were much the same as Katherine meets today i.e. persuading members to renew, persuading them to pay by bankers order (or direct debit as now) and persuading them to Covenant (i.e. Gift Aid) their subscriptions.

### **Numbers**

We now have approaching 700 members in over 480 'households.' Of these:

46 are **Life Members**

16 are **Honorary Members** – includes IWA branches

18 are **Corporate Members** who pay subscriptions, e.g. local councils, boat companies / clubs

90 have taken '**block membership**' (i.e. 5 years for price of 4)

and:

344 renew **yearly** – of which 168 pay by standing order and 150 by cheque / online – not vastly different from the 55% by cash/cheque and 45% by bankers order that Barry reported in 1990.

313 memberships are signed up for Gift Aid. 26 of these (Corporate Members / charities, such as IWA branches) cannot do Gift Aid. Do the maths and it leaves 141 memberships who cannot or do not want to do gift aid.

We have promoted Gift Aid heavily over the last 12-18 months so perhaps we've as many signed up as we can but just one last call to all out there to remind you of the benefits to the Trust of Gift Aided subscriptions before we go silent on the matter for a while.  
Please, if you can, do so.

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## CLUB 100

### Autumn draw

This was made at the AGM with a record 213 participants, ten more than the previous record in the autumn draw 2015.

The prizes winners were:

|            |                       |                |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| <b>1st</b> | <b>Greta Wright</b>   | <b>£225.60</b> |
| <b>2nd</b> | <b>Graham Danbury</b> | <b>£105.60</b> |
| <b>3rd</b> | <b>Marion Birch</b>   | <b>£42.60</b>  |

Marion promptly donated her 3rd prize (plus interest) back to the Trust and we thank her very much for her generosity. The next draw will take place in January

Looking at the data most of the increase came from existing subscribers taking more numbers and, while we are exceptionally grateful for their doing that there are a large number of our members who don't participate.

As you'll note elsewhere in the Newsletter we have to raise additional funds over the next three years to be able to complete the restoration back to the A41. While **Club 100** won't get the big sums we need it's an easy way for you to help with regular small donations with the possibility of winning prizes!

To remind you, **Club 100** is a **members only** draw. A £15 subscription buys you four chances to win in a given year.

About 50% of the income is redistributed as prizes. All you have to do is to contact the Membership Secretary and she will send you the subscription form. Complete and return and, hey presto, you'll be in the next four draws

## BBC presenter's Charity Canoe Challenge

We congratulate BBC Three Counties Radio presenter Andy Collins who successfully canoed the Grand Union Canal for five days Monday 14-Friday 18 November to raise money for Children in Need.

A first-timer both on the canal and in a canoe Andy's route took him over 70 miles (112km), from Hertfordshire, through Buckinghamshire and into Bedfordshire. On the way he managed to fall in the cut and conquered his fear of being eaten by a giant pike!

Chris Sargeant and Ray Orth were lucky enough to meet up with him during his breakfast show from the Anglers Retreat Pub near the canal in Marsworth on 16 November, the stopping point for day two of the Canal Canoeing Challenge. Imagine us perched on bar stools in the temporary bar studio with a black cat watching and a parrot in a cage joining in behind! Go onto the Trusts website to listen to the conversation.

## GOING FOR GOLD

Many of you who go to our events will know Beryl Hunter (our 'Nail Game' Queen). Beryl's granddaughter, Pamela Relph, competed in the mixed-coxed-fours rowing at the Paralympics in Rio and with her team-mates Grace Clough, Dan Brown, James Fox and Oliver Jones (cox) won Gold for GB in on 11 September. We're sure Beryl is over-the-moon about Pamela's success and we add our congratulations too.



# GRAND DRAW 2016

As they say, 'The Results Are In.'

Mike Hicks, the Mayor of Tring came to our Restoration Open Day on 4 September and drew the winning tickets for us, and a great job he did too – see his picture on p27 together with our Chairman and Draw Organiser Michael Wright.

For his efforts we presented him with a WAT mug, a copy of Water from Wendover, a bottle of wine and Mrs Hicks received a beautiful bouquet

Whilst the Mayor's wife was not prepared to walk the mile or so to the work site, the video in the church provided an excellent means of showing them the work involved and was very much appreciated.

## THE PRIZES WENT TO:

|                 |                                           |                              |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>First</b>    | One Week on a Canal Boat<br>Ticket 15818  | <b>Mr Tibbett</b>            |
| <b>Second</b>   | 1-Day Day Boat Hire<br>Ticket 04962       | <b>B. Hampton</b>            |
| <b>Third</b>    | Virgin Experience<br>Ticket 18620         | <b>Mrs Wright</b>            |
| <b>Fourth</b>   | £100 Cash Prize<br>Ticket 23996           | <b>Mrs Bradbury</b>          |
| <b>Fifth</b>    | £25 Garden Centre Voucher<br>Ticket 00246 | <b>John Dodwell</b>          |
| <b>Sixth</b>    | Lakeland Stick Blender<br>Ticket 09925    | <b>Emma Matthars</b>         |
| <b>Seventh</b>  | Ladies Necklace<br>Ticket 14987           | <b>John Savage</b>           |
| <b>Eighth</b>   | Travelling Clock<br>Ticket 13126          | <b>P. Lovell</b>             |
| <b>Ninth</b>    | Bathroom Scales<br>Ticket 23990           | <b>Mrs Knight</b>            |
| <b>Tenth</b>    | Two Cushions<br>Ticket 14746              | <b>A Pollard</b>             |
| <b>Eleventh</b> | Two Fleeces<br>Ticket 15147               | <b>Steve Sumner</b>          |
| <b>Twelfth</b>  | Travel Bag<br>Ticket 21702                | <b>Mr &amp; Mrs F Wright</b> |

Both Mr Tibbett (who bought the winning ticket on the day of the Draw) and Mr Hampton declined their prizes.

So, the Week's Canal Boat Holiday, donated by Wyvern Shipping will roll over to next year.

The Day Boat Hire donated by Lee Valley Cruisers was auctioned at the AGM and was bought by Brian Harris who said it was great as he'd never boated in that neck of the woods before.

The return from the 2016 Draw, including the auctioned Day Boat Hire was around the £4100 mark. This makes a very useful addition to the Trusts income and now that don't have the Festival it is the single biggest fund-raiser other than membership subscriptions

Michael Wright, the Draw organiser extends his thanks (as does Council) to everyone who bought tickets, even if it were just one, and says he's already planning 2017's Draw.

All the prize-winners have been notified.

# RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from various sources including restoration group newsletters

## August 2016

The working party this month was mainly engaged in preparatory tasks such as moving spoil, cutting Bentomat® and clearing vegetation so that we were all ready to demonstrate lining to the visitors at September's Restoration Open day, rather than just showing pipe-capping – again! Pipe-capping is a very necessary part of the restoration task but doesn't quite have the public impact of re-lining where you can actually see a canal being rebuilt.

## September 2016

Lining at bridge 4a was the order of the day for the first half of the work party and the many visitors on the Sunday of the Open Day really appreciated seeing this; 10m completed on both banks.

The remainder of the work party was completion of the pipe-capping to bridge 4 which milestone was reached on 7 September; 450m capped from 4a with 75 pours totalling 150m<sup>3</sup> of concrete.

We've asked CRT's engineers to address the matter of the design of the weir outlet at Whitehouses with some urgency, if we reach there with the lining before the works are completed then restoration work will be held up. Yes, we know there's still quite a time to go before that point is reached but time does tend to fly!

## October and November 2016

## Crisis!

We learned in October that Morgans Plant Hire has closed and has sold its business to SRBE in Milton Keynes. Morgans had been very good to the Trust over our 13-year association with them with plant at reasonable rates, an ability to supply a 6t tracked dumper (a rare beast) and excellent service.

## Crisis Solved!

Some serious negotiating with SRBE has resulted in a deal that will give us a hire cost for everything other than the tracked dumper at rates similar to those charged by Morgans; the tracked dumper will have to be 'cross-hired' from companies further afield that do have them and this will be at a higher cost, overall we can expect our plant hire costs to rise by around 15%.

## Well, why don't we . . . ?

A comment heard not infrequently is, 'Why don't we have our own plant?' Nice thought but: (1) these things are seriously expensive – even second-hand (2) we would be faced with insurance, maintenance and breakdown costs that we avoid by hiring and (3) we've nowhere to keep plant safe from thieves and vandals between work parties so, hire is our best bet.

## Progress:

With a full complement of (very new) plant we finished to full-profile 21m of both banks and lined 15m. We are now able (December) to lay 20m of bed lining to complete that restoration and then

move on to the next 20m.

## **Other Activities for December**

On 4 December members of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society will be carrying out an archaeological survey at Whitehouses. Much of this work has already been carried out in the past by ourselves and others such as KESCRG but no interest was shown. The coming of the HLF bid has changed all that and this latest initiative is being driven by CRT (See also 'Nunc' on p20)

On 7 December we will be assisting engineers from CRT in some investigation and survey work at Whitehouse in preparation for the design of the water outlet/weir structure in front of the wall there.

## **HLF Visit 29 September**

Deborah Milligan and Mike Harding from HLF came for a look-see. Ray Orth and Chris Sargeant took them up the Arm from Bulbourne to Little Tring on Marion Birch's boat and then walked to Bridge 4a to show them the work site and progress to date. It was to a large extent a tick-boxing exercise by HLF.

We also had an update meeting with James Clifton and Charles Baker on the subject of progress with stage 2 of the lottery bid. CRT is working through the substantial plans and schedules required by HLF expecting to submit the stage 2 application by autumn 2017 to get a decision by spring 2018, this position has not changed significantly since the previous HLF meeting.

## **Work Party Dates**

The next three months' working parties are:

**Friday 6 —Thursday 12 January**

**Friday 3—Thursday 9 February**

**Friday 3—Thursday 9 March**

Work parties at this time of year are always subject to the weather but, if clement, then we will continue lining back towards Whitehouses.

To volunteer contact Ray Orth:  
[restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

## **'Tidy Fridays'**

Keeping vegetation under control, cleaning, making things neat and tidy so that the canal looks attractive for all the many visitors we have. Also to clear areas that we want to set out as picnic areas. This is important work in enhancing our public image and it's not heavy restoration work for the super-fit and super-strong.

A group of volunteers under John Reynolds' direction is attacking the vegetation growth along the restored section. These tidying-up sessions will continue next year and the dates for the first three months are:

**Friday 13 January**

**Friday 10 February**

**Friday 10 March**

Give John,

- a call on 07787 355515
  - email him at [scubajr@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:scubajr@tiscali.co.uk)
  - or just turn up at 9am at Little Tring.
- Bring a picnic lunch and finish at 2pm.

Why not be in John's Gang?

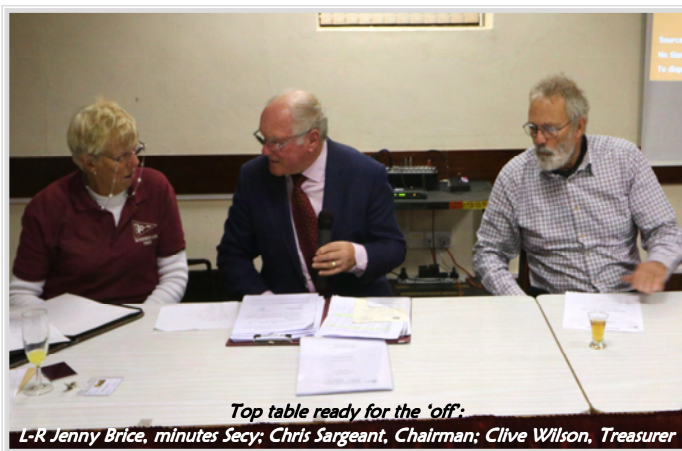
## AGM 19 OCTOBER 2016—REPORT

The Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 21st October 2015 were approved as a correct record.

**The Chairman** welcomed everyone to the 27<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Trust. He remarked that the year started with a major event, the re-watering of a ¼ mile section of the Arm as far a bridge 4a. Pipe-capping has now been completed as far as bridge 4 and lining from bridge 4a towards the Whitehouses site has begun. He praised these achievements as a tribute to our dedicated team of restoration volunteers and to Roger Leishman and Ray Orth who lead them. He said that members would find more details in the Annual Report document so he wouldn't repeat them in his talk. He also thanked all those who work in support of the restorers in 'oiling the wheels' to raise funds, attend events and raise the Trust's profile.

The year to April also saw another major event, the launching of our lottery funding bid jointly with partners and canal owners the Canal & River Trust. The exercise began with the bid enquiry stage initiated by our own Nigel Williams and on approval of this in March this year Stage 1 of a bid for £1.9m was submitted – to use contractors to complete works back to Little Tring. This then paves the way

for water levels to be raised once bank strengthening by CRT is completed where necessary back to Wendover and navigation to the A41 crossing. Full



*Top table ready for the 'off':  
L-R Jenny Brice, minutes Secy; Chris Sargeant, Chairman; Clive Wilson, Treasurer*

navigation to Wendover would then be subject to bridges being raised and dredging. As owners of the canal CRT were the lead bidder in this process with WAT as partners. In March 2016 we received approval of stage 1 for £1.6m meaning we have to contribute £0.3m in matched funding. Stage 2 of the bid is now being prepared by CRT and Charles Baker from CRT is fully involved as project manager and he will be addressing us later. This is a very detailed and time-consuming process and I would like to record our thanks to CRT for undertaking it to our mutual benefit.

The Trust's objective is to complete all works and lining to Bridge 4 prior to lottery funded contract works – a major part of this is the reinstatement of the



Whitehouses water control site with a weir, wing walls and structures to safeguard both the site and passing craft. This together with lining though the area is likely to cost around £50,000. In order to finance this and honour our commitments in lottery match funding we need to raise around £50,000 per year for the next two to three years; in this context we are pleased to welcome here this evening Sarah Thorn, who has very kindly volunteered to help us with our fund-raising. Precise timetables for all of the above are being developed and updates will be published on our website as things develop.

During the period we have attended numerous events to raise our profile and to attract new members and support – our new events trailer kindly donated by IWA Chiltern last year has proved invaluable. Looking to next season we urgently need one or two people to share the load of towing the trailer to and from events and to help set up and take down. If you can help please let us know.



*Nigel Williams discusses fund-raising with Sarah Thorn*

More recently we were privileged to welcome Lady Verulam, the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire to the Arm and we also helped to help host CRT's '2 Arms on 2 Legs' half-marathon event.



*Charles Baker—without sooty overalls!*

In conclusion, our immediate aims are clear – to complete Phase 2 with navigation to the A41 and to develop and encourage wider canal usage along its length including canoes, kayaks, trail boats, fishing, nature study walking and cycling – please continue

*(Continued on page 17)*

# 2Arms on 2Legs Half-marathon/10k and Fun-run

## 11 September

What a brilliant day for a run! CRT had organised a run from Aylesbury along the Aylesbury Arm to Marsworth (the end of the 10k run) and then to Bulbourne and along the Wendover Arm to Wendover. The Trust provided water stations at the end of the half marathon (adjacent Startops End reservoir) and at the A41 by-pass bridge at Drayton Beauchamp where your reporter was stationed.

Here's his view of the day:



After the obligatory safety briefing off we went, set up the station . . .

. . . and then waited. . . and waited. . . and waited, good job it was such a lovely day! But at last the half-marathon runners began to arrive, singly at first and in great haste . . .



'Elite' runners displayed the nonchalant style of picking up a water cup as they rushed past . . .

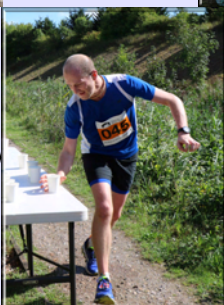


. . . While others employed the 'chuck it everywhere style. . .

. . . and then there's the genuflection to the table. . .



. . . and the bend-it-low style to take one cup from the entry side, chuck it over your head then get another from the exit side to drink. . .



. . . but the fun-runners were glad of the chance to stop, have a chat and a drink and then jog off on their way to Wendover asking, 'Is it much further?'

Eventually the number of runners got fewer and further between with more puff and less speed as time went by until one 'runner' said, 'I'm the last one' shortly followed by CRT's sweeper-upper on his bike, thus time to pack up and go home or, in your reporter's case, off to Halton to help man the stand at the Halton Show.

CRT was pleased with the outcome and we can expect further runs. Benefits to the Trust? Nothing in terms of funds but our participation raised public awareness of us and all the runners had WAT literature in their 'goody bags'.

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**TIDY FRIDAYS PICTURE GALLERY**

Right: A somewhat unflattering picture of one of the gang removing dirt and algae from the steps on bridge 4a, essential in keeping them slip-free.

Below right: scrub clearance work at bridge 4, keeping the path clear to Whitehouses

Below left: the Tidy Friday 'gang'. They'd love you to join them – details on p11





## The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire's visit to the Arm on 6 September.

Both Lady Verulam and Mr Townsend were very impressed with the extent and professionalism of the restoration work the Trust is undertaking and showed a keen interest in all that was going on. They were impressed to that our work is being used for Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme qualifications; Alexander Larsen, son of former volunteer Torkel Larsen was on site for the full working party as part of his DoFE award tasks.

Following the tour of the workings a select group enjoyed a buffet lunch aboard 'Muttley' before returning to Bulbourne.

*Pictures: ❶ Lady Verulam meets Roger Leishman. ❷ Lunchtime discussions aboard 'Muttley' ❸ Ray Orth explains how Bentomat® keeps the water in the canal ❹ the re-watered section at bridge 4a. ❺ Shooting Gannet Bridge*



## A GRAND DAY OUT (see p5)

Paul's boat, 'Albert' and his new acquisition 'Victoria' are 38' in length, have central heating, a kitchenette with refrigerator, and a flushing toilet. For up to ten persons including the crew of two.



Left: the test party in the cabin

Right: disembarking at Cow Roast





*AGM Report: Continued from page 13*

with us on this journey and spread the word to those not yet involved! Thank you all.

**Treasurer's Report** The treasurer stated that his first full year in the post had engendered a feeling that the accounts had been 'ticking over' for the past few years and that 2015/16 had been no different. Approximately £10000 per quarter is being spent on restoration and with some hard work involved, the money coming in was very much business as usual. He felt that the reported deficit for the year was not a worry and indicated that the outgoings were spent on 'what we are here for' – getting the canal restored, indeed the difference between the loss this year and the surplus of the previous year could be represented by just one entry of that year – a grant of £20000 from CRT.

Two items that were not obvious from the bare figures in the accounts were highlighted. The first is that we now have nine bank accounts, as opposed to five at the year's start. This was because we needed to secure ALL of our funds under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. This has led to the result that we may increase our interest income slightly even though interest rates are falling! The downside however is that we are not as flexible in moving money around and this will need careful management as we enter the first phases of match funding under the HLF bid. The second item was working with CRT to control more closely what we owe them for supplies. This because we do not want the figure to creep up to several tens of thousands of pounds at the same time

as entering the HLF process.

The treasurer finished by stating that he felt the accounts would be seen to become more dynamic in the next few years, as a result of the increased restoration activity.

There was one question from the floor regarding the income from 'Easyfundraising' that the questioner felt was not as high as expected. The Treasurer replied that under the scheme, money came into the account by transfer only, and the figures were derived from the bank statements.

**Council of Management Reports:** These reports were accepted.

**Report of Independent Examiner:** This was accepted.

**Appointment of External Examiner:** Ashby's Chartered Accountants, Morton House, 9 Beacon Court, Pitstone Green Business Park, Pitstone LU7 9GY were re-appointed as Independent Examiners.

**Election of Members of the Council:** There were four nominees for re-election to Council:

David Page  
John Rowe  
Chris Sargeant  
Bob Wheal

The remaining Council Members were not due for re-election and have indicated their willingness to continue:

Marion Birch  
Jenny Brice (IWA Nominee)  
Charles Carrington

*(Continued on page 18)*

*AGM report: Continued from page 17*

Katherine Deane  
Roger Leishman  
Vicky Martin (CRT representative)  
Ray Orth  
Nigel Williams  
Clive Wilson

Although no election was necessary as there were under 20 nominations, the Chairman requested a vote of confidence in the Council, which was carried.

**The meeting closed at 7.50pm** and the 61 members and guests sat down to dinner, followed by the AGM Club 100 Draw (with a record number of participants) and the raffle that raised £260. Our principal guest was Charles Baker, who, as you may have read above is CRT's nominated engineer for the HLF project. He gave a resumé of the schedule of works on the project and gave us his CV with several pictures of a rather sooty, boiler-suit clad Charles restoring his Garrett traction engine!

## EVEN MORE HELP WANTED

Sorry about the constant appeals for help but our Heritage Lottery Fund bid depends on involving the community, one essential point is educating the young.

I need a small team to accompany me when visiting schools in the area.

This will involve taking educational material into classrooms and working with the children to explain WATER, CANALS and the TRADITIONS of PAST BOATING FAMILIES.

We also need volunteers to talk to various organisations in the local area, a training session is being arranged by Canal & River Trust in the next couple of months.

If anyone is interested and may be able to help please contact me for further details at [jenny@johnbrice.co.uk](mailto:jenny@johnbrice.co.uk).

*Jenny Brice*

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# From the Archives

## FUNDING THE FUTURE

*Part 3 of Mike Chessher's reports on his attempts to put together a Millennium Lottery Fund package to finance restoration (Wendover Arm News No 20, Summer 1995):*

It seems an age since I wrote breathlessly, telling you of our proposal to the Millennium Commission for restoration funding. Come to think of it, it was back on the 8th of February when I delivered the 3 page proposal form to the Commission, accompanied by a two page letter – all that was permitted under the rules. Here I am, sitting in the May sunshine, wondering where March and April went.

Well, as you may have heard, the Millennium Commission had over 1400 proposals and just under 700 of the applicants, including the Trust, were invited to submit full applications. Of that 700, less than 450 managed to get their applications in by the deadline of 30th April. I would hardly dare be writing in the Newsletter if our own 3½ lb. worth had not been delivered on Friday 28th April so we are still in there with a chance. Soon after the Festival we will know whether we have reached the next round. If so, we will be involved in a detailed appraisal of the project (DAR) and site visits by the Commission.

We have applied to the Commission for £1.45 million, half the estimated cost of restoring the canal as far as Green Park. The project includes bridgeworks at Little Tring, the A41 crossing and the

swing bridge at Buckland Wharf. There are also two foot bridges over the dry section. A lot of the money will go into lining the canal channel, as one thing is certain, 'the leaky canal' must leak no more!

One of the major problems could be timing the work to fit in with the construction of the Aston Clinton bypass. Unlike the road, however, the canal must seek 50% of its funding from 'partnership' sources and the battle is now on to find willing 'partners'.

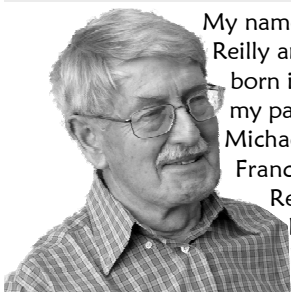
I said right back at the beginning that we could not restore the canal without the whole-hearted support of BW. I am delighted to report that we have that support and also the promise of money that would otherwise have to be spent on repairing or replacing the pipeline.

Whilst it's nail biting time with the Millennium Commission, a similar situation exists with English Partnerships, who fund Derelict Land Grants. They are considering a preliminary application and we should know soon whether we can put in a full application for the £600,000 we have requested.

We will also be re-applying to the Environmental Action Fund and it is essential to have the 'partnership' of the four local authorities through whose area the arm passes. Progress here is slow, one of the problems being that the councils can only commit funds one year at a time and not in advance over

*(Continued on page 21)*

## 'Nunc'

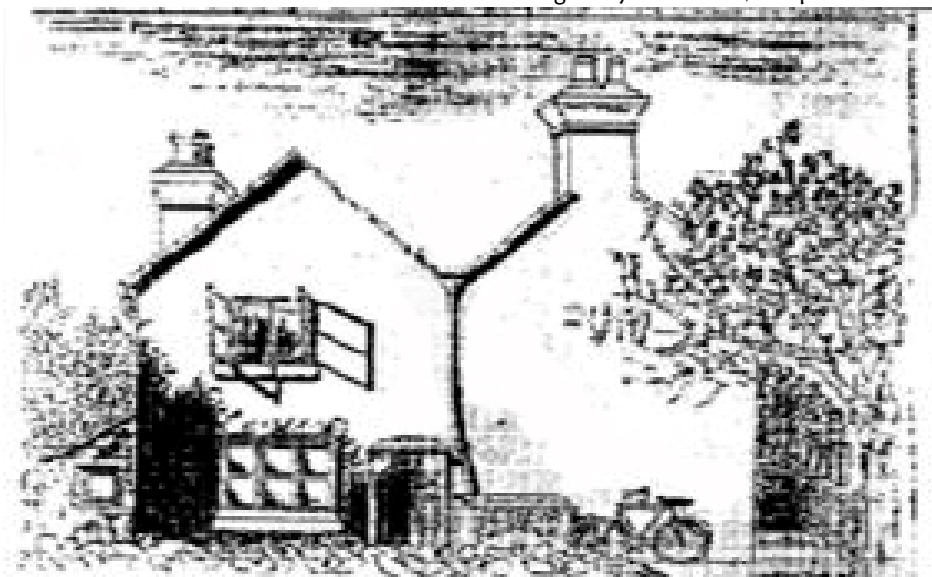


My name is Nick Reilly and I was born in 1937 to my parents Edward Michael and Frances Myra Reilly and we lived at Belsize Park in Hampstead.

My father came from a well known gun making family founded in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and which traded under the name Edward Michael Reilly. The business closed under my grandfather, Herbert Horace Reilly, allegedly due partly to the reluctance of the aristocracy to pay their bills. My grandfather was rather eccentric so this may have played a part

in the demise of the firm. He had several brothers, one of whom was Gerard Atholl Gilbert Reilly who was born in 1878 and trained as an analytical chemist. I do not know how he trained nor where he practised. He was also an eccentric and when I knew him he lived as a recluse at Whitehouse on the then abandoned and dry Wendover Arm. He was, of course, my great uncle and was known in the family as Nunc. He had apparently married Joanna Maud Lisner in 1910 but I believe they became estranged in the 1940s and I never met her. There were no children.

We used to visit him from time to time and I remember that on at least one occasion I and my mother, my father being away in the war, camped in the



*From WAT Newsletter 5, 1990, Whitehouses, a view from the east. Sketch kindly lent by Bernard Banfield.*



garden of Whitehouse. I recall waking up in the morning to see badly damaged bombers limping back to their base somewhere north of the canal. Nunc, being an eccentric, offered accommodation to various homeless individuals and on another occasion I remember as a small boy of about six being thoroughly scared when suddenly meeting in the darkness of the house a tall bearded Russian who just appeared out of nowhere.

On the high ground to the south of the canal there was a municipal refuse dump. In those days rubbish was just dumped in a suitable location with no material separation and no ground treatment. As the years went by this dump gradually approached the house. My great uncle was in the habit of scouring the foot of the dump for items that might come in useful so he had a huge collection of junk at the cottage.

It was always assumed that there was a lock on the canal and that the cottage was for the lock keeper. I was always puzzled that there was so little trace of the lock and there did not appear to be any difference in level. Since visiting the canal on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and meeting the

work party then on site, I have learned that it was a pumping station, presumably to lift water from the Wilstone reservoir lower down to the north of the canal.

I said that Nunc had been a chemist and he had with him at the cottage a large quantity of chemical apparatus including glassware and chemicals. As I was doing chemistry A level in the period 1953-55 he offered to give me some of his apparatus. So I sent him a list and then cycled out to Tring on my bike from Hampstead and brought back as much as I could. Of course I never did anything with it as there were adequate facilities at school.

Nunc eventually became unable to look after himself and was moved into a care home somewhere near Camberley I believe. He died in hospital in Holborn in 1959. After his death my parents took on the cottage for a few years and cleared out the junk and made it just about habitable as a primitive country cottage. It had no running water or electricity but I think that there was well. I presume there was also a septic tank.

*(From the Archives, continued from page 19)*  
the four-year period necessary We also need to make progress on funding future maintenance.

So if you know any councillors, please use your powers of persuasion on them. Make sure they appreciate that the restored canal will be a very visible, durable and uncontroversial

way of celebrating the start of a new millennium, and what great value for money too! To attract this major funding to the area, we are asking each of the four local authorities to contribute only 1.75% of the total capital cost.

*Mike Chessher*  
*to be continued. . .*

## Farewells

### FOTR Draws to a Close

The work of the Wendover Arm Trust is largely occupied with, and focussed on, restoring the section beyond Tring and in promoting restoration of the rest of the Arm towards Wendover. WAT keeps an unofficial 'watching brief' on the already-in-use section from the junction at Bulbourne to Tring.

For many years WAT has been grateful for the involvement at the Bulbourne end of the canal of Friends of Tring Reservoirs (FOTR), an independent charity. Although their emphasis is naturally on the reservoirs and the wildlife of the area (especially birds), the continued wellbeing and even existence of the reservoirs has been inextricably linked with the wellbeing of the canal, which they serve.

Earlier this year, Friends of Tring Reservoirs decided that its interests and responsibilities overlapped to a great extent with those of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT). HMWT has also been formally responsible for the management of the Tring Reservoirs Nature Reserve since 2012 and has worked closely with FOTR for several years; these factors helped FOTR to decide at its AGM that after 20 years of dedicated work it should close as an independent charity, and its local responsibilities be handed over to H&MWT with immediate effect.

Those with keen memories may recall FOTR members taking groups of interested walkers around the reservoirs, on several occasions during past Tring (sorry, Wendover) Canal Festivals. FOTR also provided invaluable assistance and

evidence of expertise during public- and WAT-organised visits to the Pump Station at Little Tring.

If you would like to see the work of the HMWT visit their website. You may even wish to join their next guided Three Reservoirs Wildfowl Walk at the Tring Reservoirs on Sunday 12 Feb 2017. See HMWT website for more detail and booking form:

<http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/>

*Bob Wheal*

### Halton Airfield to close

The Station Commander has released the following statement about the future of RAF Halton:

*'The Secretary of State for Defence has announced that, as a part of the wider rationalisation of the Defence estate, the RAF Halton airfield will be closed in 2022. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Aylesbury Vale District Council will work together to determine the future of the land in question. The decision by Defence to release RAF Halton's airfield is unrelated to the on-going work to determine the future of the wider RAF Halton estate'*

Editor's note:

This has already generated a lot of comment from locals. Some is deep concern such as 'does this mean we look forward to another 1000 houses?' other is the observation that the airfield may have been leased from the Rothschilds and will revert to them on closure and that it's not up to the organisations listed in the statement to adjudicate on the future of the land.

I don't know but 'watch this space' it could get interesting!

**STOP PRESS** 16 December: Statement from the Station Commander of RAF Halton: 'The MOD can confirm that we are in consultation with Aylesbury Vale District Council regarding our intent to dispose of the whole of the RAF Halton site. This is in line with the 'Better Defence Estate' Strategy, which seeks to optimise the Defence footprint, and contribute to the Government's Housing target.'

## Letters to the Editor

### Our Congratulations

I am emailing to congratulate you and your members upon the fantastic work you have so far managed to complete.

On Friday 23rd September we arrived with our narrowboat at the top of the Marsworth Flight and were immediately attracted by your banner on the entrance bridge. So having boated down to the Pumping Station and turned there we moored overnight. Reading the signage tempted us to explore further, so on Saturday we walked the entire canal to Wendover, had a nice lunch there, and walked back to the boat.

What a brilliant canal it will be when fully functioning again.

The work you have so far managed is excellent and to find so much of the canal in water was a delight.

Recognising the value of the canal to the local economy is something that I feel sure you are sometimes unable to fully estimate, and in order that you may have some idea from our experience, we travelled through to the Aylesbury basin the week before last and stayed there for about 10 days. In that time we spent probably in excess of £ 200 in eating out and maybe as much in shopping in the town.

On Saturday, in just a short visit we spent in excess of £30 , and had the restoration been complete and we been able to boat there, I suspect we would in the week or so that we usually moor, have spent a similar amount to

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our Aylesbury trip.

Our usual cruising area is in the midlands and north, but we will be surely looking forward to again venturing south when we learn that the next phase of your work has progressed.

We are also keen sea canoeists, and wondered whether you had considered encouraging the use of the Wendover end of the canal by canoeists until further restoration there takes place. Our experience of canoeists is that they readily become involved in keeping waterways clear of overgrowth and debris, as they are mostly 'hands on' people.

Please do convey our thanks to all your membership.

*Michael and Carol Brash*

## HELP WANTED

### EVENTS 2017

We are planning to attend the following events, the exact dates to be confirmed:

- ♦ **Aldbury Fête:** early May
- ♦ **Tring Carnival:** Late June
- ♦ **Linslade Canal Festival:** late July
- ♦ **Halton Fête:** Mid September.

There may be others added to the list if we can get enough help to man our stand and if we can get our equipment trailer to the event (see the appeal on the right.)

What help is needed?

- ♦ Helping to unpack and put up our stand
- ♦ Helping to take down and re-pack the stand
- ♦ Selling Grand Draw tickets
- ♦ Running the 'nail game'
- ♦ Handing out leaflets and literature

None of the above require any deep knowledge of the canal and its restoration and none require you to stay for the duration of any event. If you can offer help at one or more of them please contact Jenny Brice at [jenny@johnbrice.co.uk](mailto:jenny@johnbrice.co.uk)

Or call the general telephone number 07547 181857.

We hope to continue our successful Restoration Days in 2017 in June and in September but don't have dates yet; for these, not only help is needed but also cakes, jams and preserves

## AN APPEAL

See the picture below of our Chairman (left) taking delivery last year of our equipment trailer from John Brice of Chiltern Branch IWA (right.) The trailer



has helped enormously over the past year, facilitating the setting-up and breaking-down of our stand at events. Now, can you see the bit (the pointy bit) to the right of John's hand? This hooks on something called a tow-bar (surprise!) Over the past year John Reynolds has kindly done the honours for us and has fetched and returned the trailer from store but he can't do as much in future and we must have **more** people to help us; anyone with a tow-bar prepared to help? You may say to yourself, 'I could help but I don't have a tow-bar on my car.' If that's all that's stopping you then the Trust is prepared to finance one for you.

If we can't get any help then our attendance at fetes and events will dwindle, a pity as 'community engagement' is one of the planks on which HLF will grant us the money we seek.

Give us a call on 07547 181857 – please!



# FUND-RAISING AND DONATIONS

**Rose Bennett's** Bric-a-brac stall at Dunstable and District Boat club has raised another £91 bring the total since Rose started to £2699.

**Philip Wareham's** funeral collection raised £53.

**Marion Birch** has donated her Club 100 winnings – plus interest! to the Trust. A total of £50.

**WRG Boat Club** has donated £200.

The Trust sends grateful thanks them all.

The September **Restoration Open Day** raised £320 in donations.

**And Bob Wheal says. . .**

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and you are home and dry. Did you order online? If you did, and if you didn't place your order via **easyfundraising**, then you have missed an opportunity to help WAT. At no cost to you . . .yes, that's right, at **no cost** to you.

It's so simple even I can do it, and it relies on three basic steps.

**1. Visit the easyfundraising site and choose your vendor**, such as Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, etc. Easyfundraising will take you directly to your choice. Of course, if this is your first visit you will have to tell easyfundraising you want to favour WAT with your largesse (don't be tempted by other causes' blandishments to stray and nominate them instead).

**2 Shop and buy** from Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, etc. in the normal way (other online retail websites are available).

**3 Relax** in the warm glow of knowing your far-sighted and considerate shopping action has helped WAT.

That's all there is to it. Why not give it a go? You can't lose, and WAT can only win.

*(Ed. At the time of going to press WAT had 53 supporters and £1218 had been raised.)*

## From the Editor



In a jam-packed festive edition of the Newsletter this is all the space left to me to rabbit on, so, I won't. All I will do is to wish you all the compliments of the season and all the best for a prosperous 2017 and I'll see you in the next edition in the spring. And perhaps soon, HLF permitting, we shall be able to get Santa up to the A41 in his boat!

*David Page*



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To promote the restoration and maintenance of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal, (including all waterways, buildings, and related structures), to good and navigable order and to promote the fullest use of the waterway by water-borne traffic (subject to the regulations of The Canal and River Trust) and for local amenity, recreational and water related activities for the benefit of the public.

To restore, preserve, maintain and to educate the public in the history, use and associated wildlife, of canals and inland waterways generally and the Wendover Arm in particular.

**General telephone number:** 07547 181857 **Website:** [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

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A group of visitors at the restoration works and what they can see happening on the canal bed

## RESTORATION OPEN DAY 4 SEPTEMBER

The best attendance yet at one of our open days. The crowds came and kept David and Ray busy at the information points and the September weather, though not sunny, helped too. The car park was full, visitors hoovered up the cakes, jams and preserves and a huge number of parties were taken along the towpath to the restoration works to view how we do the job.



David earnestly makes a point at Nuttalls' bund



L-R: Tring's Mayor Mike Hicks, WAT Chairman Chris Sergeant and Draw Organiser Michael Wright pose for the camera after the hard work of drawing the winning Grand Draw tickets



At the works Ray explains what the visitors can see.

But when you go out for the day isn't it all about having a nice cup of tea and a slice of home-made cake?





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